



**Department Update  
to  
Standing Committee**

**Jennifer Banek MS, CRNA**  
**Lake County Coroner**

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

# Department Overview

## Lake County Coroner

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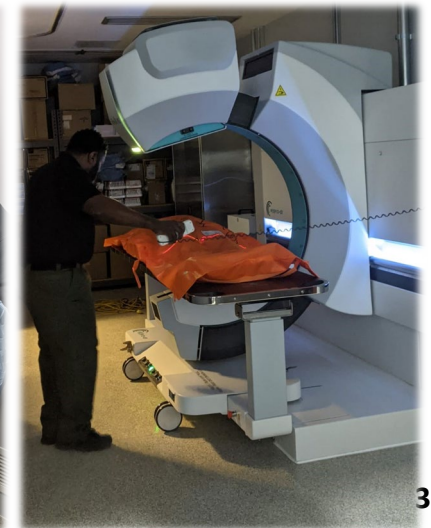
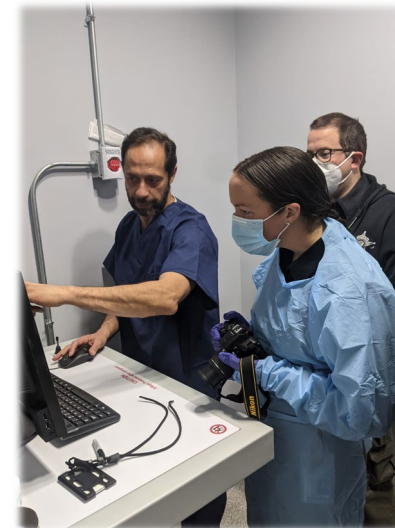
- **Determination of Cause and Manner of Death**
  - **Covers entire county**
  - **Scene investigations, forensic examination and toxicology**
- **Administrative Functions**
  - **Certification of death on Coroner Cases**
  - **Cremation permits for any death that occurs in Lake County**
  - **Case file management and record keeping**
- **Family Support**
  - **Assist family member throughout process**
  - **Provide medicolegal answers to survivors**

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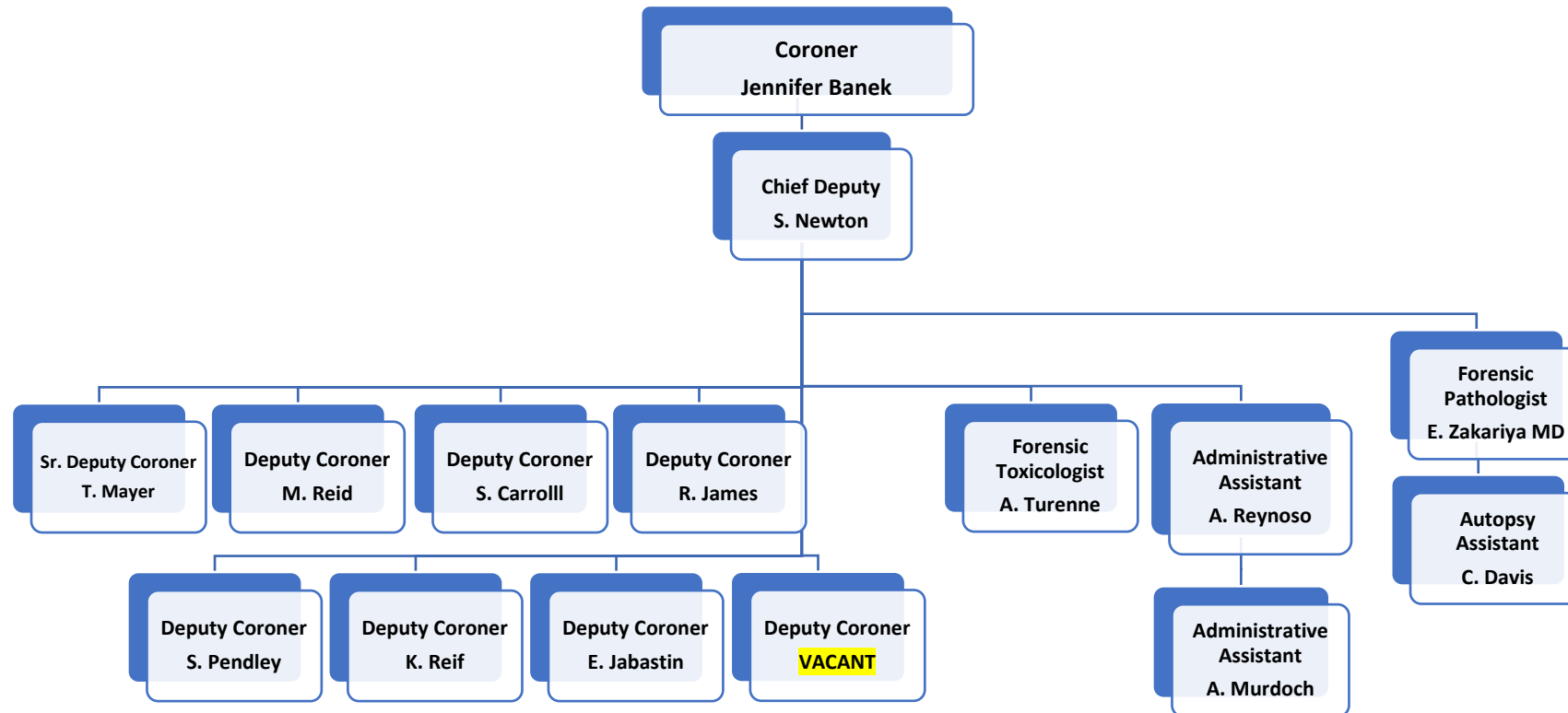


- Staffing
- Administration/Investigations
  - Coroner
  - Chief Deputy
  - 8 Deputy Coroners/Investigators
    - Currently functioning at 7
  - 2 Administrative Staff
- Examination
  - Forensic Pathologist, Pathology Assistant
  - Toxicologist



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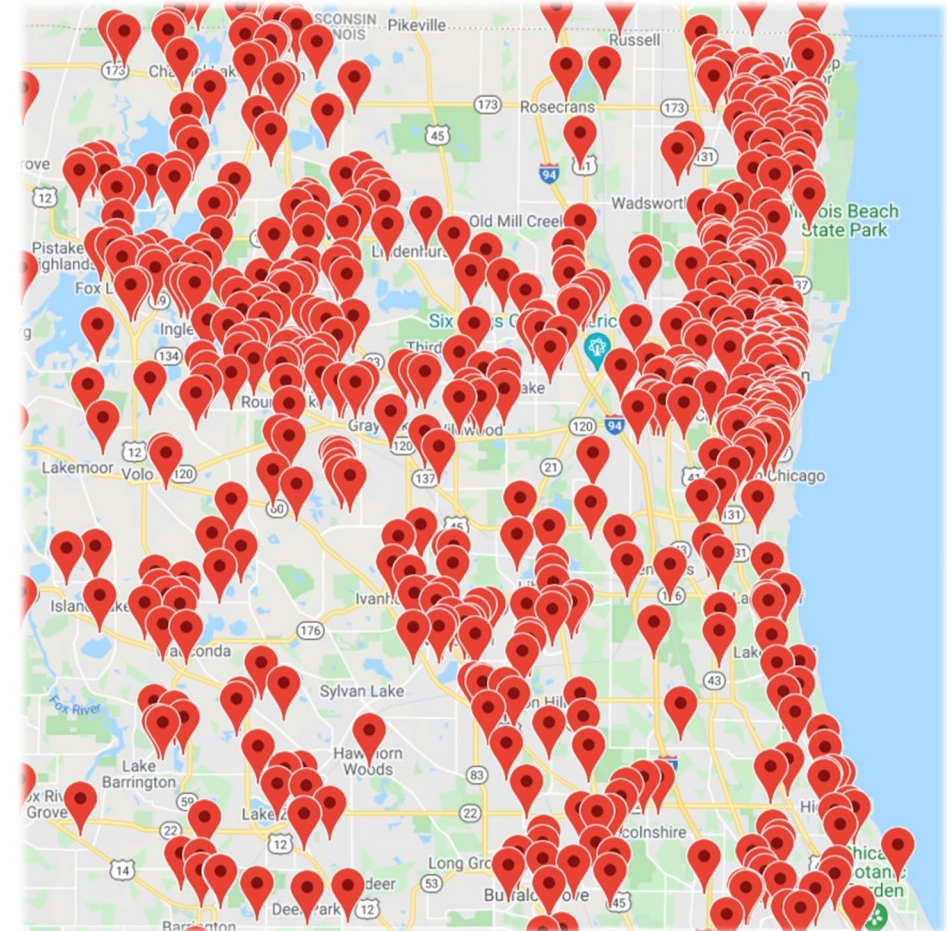


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- **Departmental Statistics 2021**
  - **5,536 Total Deaths Reported**
  - **673 required further investigation**
  - **566 required further examination**
- **Average Coroner Case 96/yr./Deputy** <sup>(7)</sup>
- **Average Medical Case 694/yr./Deputy** <sup>(7)</sup>
- **2020 Comparison**
  - **6,159 Total Deaths Reported**
  - **703 required further investigation**
  - **581 required further examination**



# Strategic Alignment

## 2019 Strategic Plan



**County's Mission: Deliver exceptional, financially and environmentally responsive / responsible services that promote a safe, affordable, healthy, and resilient community**

<b>Strategic Initiatives</b>	
X	Regional Leadership
X	Fiscal Responsibility
X	Exceptional Service and Operational Excellence
<b>Strategic Goals</b>	
X	Public Safety and Integrated, Data-Driven Justice System
X	Enhance Economic Opportunities
	Improve Infrastructure
	Promote a Sustainable Environment
X	Build Healthy, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities

<b>Strategic Themes</b>	
X	Inter-Organizational Cooperation
X	Quality of Life
	Economic Development
	Infrastructure
	Environmental Sustainability
X	Non-Environmental Sustainability
X	Lake County Branding
X	Mental Health
X	Grants and Specialty Funding
X	Diversity and Inclusion

# Previous 12 Months

- Address mortality issues – Suicide and Overdoses
  - Collaborated with partner organizations
  - Provide transparent, timely and accurate statistical data
  - Identify and provide for needs of Families
    - *Resources/Support, Grief Boxes, Missing Pieces*
  - Identified new organizations to form partnerships for at risk population
- Address county expenditures as a result of the Pandemic
  - Re-evaluated Mass Fatality Management plan
  - Discontinued rental of overflow storage site
  - Entered in a no upfront cost MOU with funeral service for emergency storage



# Previous 12 Months

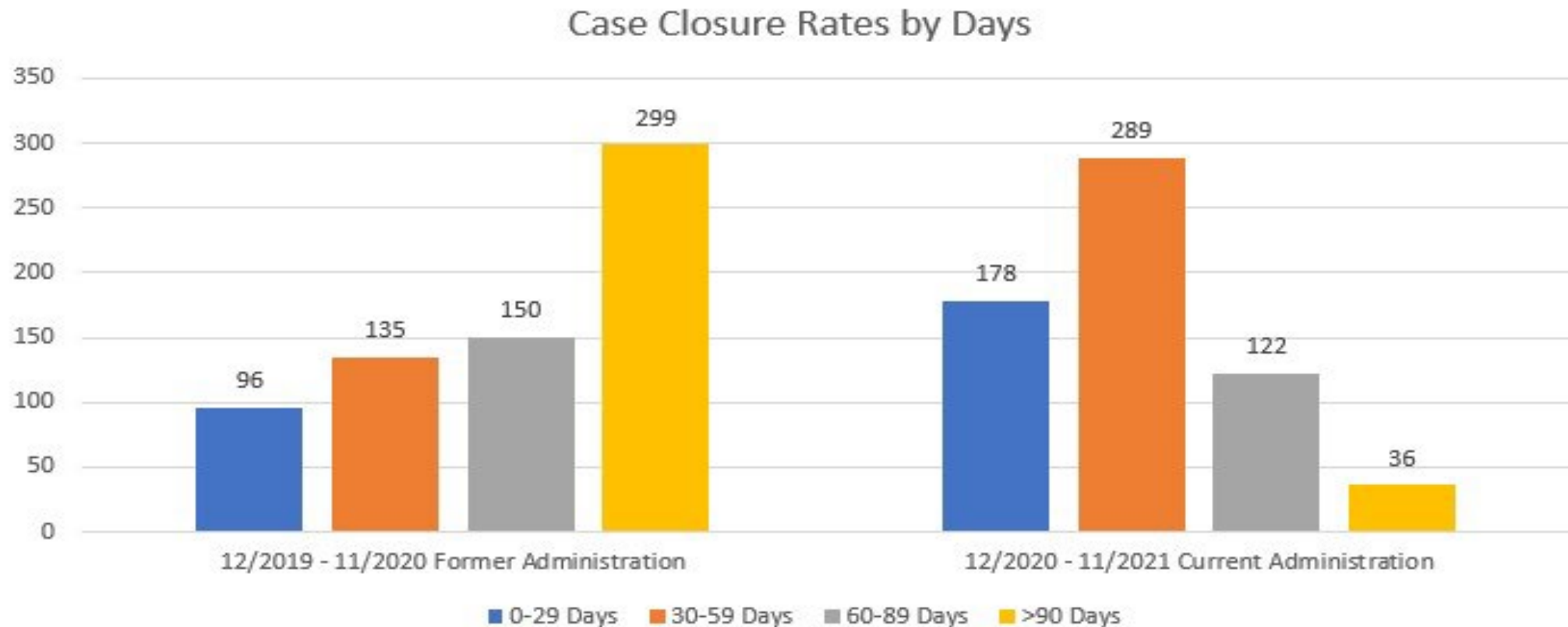
- **Staff**
  - Completed implementation of evaluation process
  - Established goals for employees based on County Initiatives
  - Improved office accountability and transparency
  - Successfully finalized union contract negotiations
  - Implemented managerial case review procedures
- **Expenditure Accountability**
  - Implemented procedures to track spending and costs
  - Evaluated contracts to assure services are in line with costs – removal service





# Previous 12 Months

- Case Closure Rates
  - Implemented policy, procedures and effective supervision practices to reduce delay in closing of cases



# Next 12 Months

- **Community Involvement**
  - Identify and collaborate additional partner organizations
  - Identify and provide increased services and resources for grieving families
  - Provide additional timely data to drive resources where needed
  - Continue to explore and implement a County Ecumenical Indigent Burial Program
- **Evaluate expenditures/contracts**
  - Continue to ensure Coroner contract services are fiscally responsible
  - Explore potential revenue generating lab services
  - Research grant funding for future equipment



# Next 12 Months

- Continue staff development and accountability
  - Achieve 100% of staff Crisis Intervention Team trained
    - New Staff Members
  - Maintain staff accreditation through American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators
- Increase 60-day case closure rate to minimum 80%
  - Increased to 75% in 2021 over 34% in 2020.





**Questions**